

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD

137439

17 NOV 1915

FORTY-SECOND

# ANNUAL REPORT

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ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

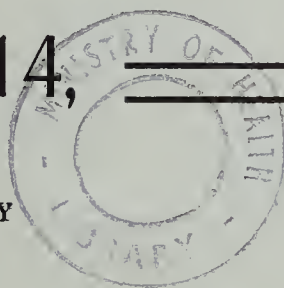
OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF WATFORD

FOR THE YEAR

===== 1914, =====

BY



DR. ARTHUR KING, D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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WATFORD :

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1915.



LOCAL OVERBOARD

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REPORT  
ON THE  
SANITARY CONDITION  
OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT OF WATFORD  
FOR THE YEAR 1914.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WATFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report of the Sanitary Condition of the Watford Urban District for the year 1914.

A. NATURAL AND SOCIAL  
CONDITIONS.

(1) PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL  
CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

I went fully into this subject last year, and a full account of these will be found in my 1913 Report.

(2)

## POPULATION.

The population of Watford is largely residential, a good many even of the artisan and labouring classes being employed either in London or other places outside the Watford area, a considerable number being in the employ of the L. and N.-W. Railway.

As Watford is a rapidly growing place the Building Trade employs a large number of men, and a fair number of factories, breweries, and other industrial works find employment for a good many more.

The chief industries are chocolate makers, printers and engravers, photographic material manufacturers, and speedometer and taxi-meter makers.

At the Menpes Printing Co.'s works, where bronze printing material is in use, the proper precautions are observed.

The amount of outdoor relief granted by the Guardians in 1914 averaged £68 a week.

The only absolutely gratuitous medical treatment is that given by the Guardians; the Joint Isolation Hospital, however, only charges in exceptional cases, and the Watford District Hospital vary the amount charged according to the circumstances of the patient.

I append a list of occupations of persons ten years of age and upwards living in Watford at the Census, 1911.



## WATFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

Occupations of persons ten years of age and upwards according to the Census of 1911.

## MALES.

Occupation.	No. engaged.
General or Local Government ... ..	366
Defence of the Country ... ..	31
Professional Occupations and their Subordinate Services ... ..	756
Domestic Outdoor Service ... ..	233
Domestic Indoor and other Service ... ..	177
Merchants, Agents, Accountants; Banking, etc.; Insurance ... ..	414
Commercial or Business Clerks ... ..	502
Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages	
On Railways ... ..	1,334
On Roads ... ..	616
On Seas, Rivers and Canals ... ..	5
Dock-labourers, Wharf-labourers, Coal-heavers; Coal-porters, Labourers ... ..	27
Messengers, Porters, Watchmen (not Railway or Government) ... ..	261
Others in Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages ... ..	34
Agriculture—On Farms, Woods, and Gardens ... ..	404
Coal and Shale Mine-workers (including Mine Service) ... ..	3
Others working in and about, and in the products of, Mines and Quarries ... ..	11
General Engineering and Machine-making	339
Iron, Steel, etc., Manufacture; Tools, Dies, etc.; Arms; Misc. Metal Trades	84

Electrical Apparatus	...	...	...	105
Ships and Boats	...	...	...	2
Cycles, Coaches, and other Vehicles	...			173
Precious Metals, Jewels, Watches, Instruments, and Games	...	...	...	192
Building and Works of Construction	...			2,192
Wood, Furniture, Fittings, and Decorations				416
Brick, Plain Tile, Terra-cotta Makers	...			7
Earthenware, China, Porcelain, Glass Manufacture	...	...	...	1
Chemicals, Explosives, Oil, Grease, Soap, etc.	...	...	...	98
Skins, Leather, Saddlery, and Harness	...			30
Printers and Lithographers	...	...		404
Others in Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery (excluding Stationers, Booksellers, Publishers, Newspaper Agents, and other Dealers)	...	...	...	108
Textile Manufactures	...	...	...	7
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.				4
Tailors	...	...	...	102
Boot, Shoe, Slipper, Patten, Clog-makers				124
Other Workers in Dress	...	...	...	77
Drapers, Linen Drapers, Mercers, Dealers in Dress	...	...	...	180
Food, Tobacco, Drink, and Lodging	...			1,504
General Labourers; Factory Labourers (undefined)	...	...	...	501
All other Occupations	...	...	...	686
Total				12,517
Number unoccupied				2,717
TOTAL				15,234



## FEMALES.

Civil Service, Telegraph, Telephone Service	...	...	...	...	...	50
Municipal, Parish, etc., Officers, Hospital and Institution Service	...	...				58
Midwives, Sick Nurses, Invalid Attendants						123
Teaching	...	...	...	...		232
Literary, Scientific, and Political, Art, Music, Drama	...	...	...	...		115
Domestic Indoor Service:						
In Hotels, Lodging and Eating Houses						28
Other Domestic Indoor Servants	...					1,350
Charwomen, Day Girls, Day Servants	...					106
Laundry and Washing Service	...	...				308
Others engaged in Service	...	...				41
Commercial, Bank, and Insurance Clerks, Law Clerks	...	...	...	...		204
Agriculture—On Farms, Woods, and Gardens	...	...	...	...		5
Metals, Machines, Implements, and Conveyances (including Electrical Apparatus)						13
Makers of Jewellery, Watches, Instruments, and Tackle for Sports and Games						41
Wood, Furniture, Fittings, and Decorations						34
Chemicals, Explosives, Oil, Grease, Soap, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	114
Skins, Leather, Saddlery, and Harness	...					1
Hair and Feathers	...	...	...			11
Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery (excluding Stationers, Booksellers, Publishers, Newspaper Agents, and other Dealers)	...	...	...	...		240
Tailoresses	...	...	...	...		9

Textile Manufactures (including Dyeing, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drapers, Linen Drapers, Mercers, Dealers in Dress	...	...	...	...	...	176
Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	92
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	...	474
Staymakers, Shirtmakers, Seamstresses...						40
Boot, Shoe, Slipper, Patten, Clog-makers						4
Others Workers in Dress...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food-workers	...	...	...	...	(a)	462
Food-dealers, General Shopkeepers, Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	230
Board, Lodging, and Dealing in Spirituous Drinks:						
Coffee, Eating, Lodging-house Keepers						60
Others	...	...	...	...	...	73
All other Occupations	...	...	...	...	...	167
Total						4,904
Number unoccupied						12,015
TOTAL						16,919

Proportion per 1,000 of Unmarried,  
Married, Widowed, and of Married and  
Widowed engaged in Occupations:

Unmarried	...	...	...	...	537
Married	...	...	...	...	64
Widowed	...	...	...	...	230
Married and Widowed	...	...	...	...	89

Proportion per 1,000 of "Other Domestic  
Indoor Servants" to total number of  
Separate Occupiers or Families ... 147

## B. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply of the District is of a satisfactory character, and there has up to the present been no actual shortage. We have, however, got quite sufficiently near the latter to warrant pushing on with the new scheme as quickly as possible. Although the quality has been and is still good, there are indications that the conditions of the old wells might at some not far distant date give rise to some anxiety, and this forms an additional reason for no delay in completing the new arrangements.

The following is a Report from the Engineer, Mr. Waterhouse, showing the progress made with the New Water Scheme during 1914:—

“The new Wells have been completed and the Pumping Station, which has been in course of erection during the year, is nearing completion: delivery of the pumping plant has commenced and its erection about to be started.

“The Softening Works are in course of construction and part of the apparatus for it has been delivered.

“Tenders for the Boiler plant and Mains are now before the Council for consideration, and it is hoped that sufficient advance will be made with this part of the scheme to enable the new pumping plant to draw the town's supply from the new wells before the end of the year, but the full advantage of the complete scheme cannot be obtained until the mains and reservoir have been completed.”

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Further progress was made in investigating the outfall of the Storm Water Drain in Loates Lane.

The cause of the impurity was discovered, and when this was remedied it was found that the storm water at the outfall was quite satisfactory.

The refuse water that came from the engine jackets of the Suction Plant at the Watford Manufacturing Co. has been largely reduced in quantity, so that the amount of water finding its way into the river at the outfall is proportionately smaller.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During 1914 the drainage of a large number of houses were examined, and in many instances defects of a more or less serious nature were discovered.

The house drains were re-constructed in the case of 98 houses, and many repairs where the drains did not require re-construction were effected.

As I mentioned in the 1913 report the work on the examination and where necessary reconstruction of old sewers was arranged on a different basis in 1914. An application was made to the Local Government Board for a loan of £3,500 for the purpose in question, an inquiry was held, and the application granted.

The work was then taken up in the High Street, where it had been left off in 1913, and the condition of the old sewer where opened was



in every case such as to fully warrant not only the investigation of its condition but of its complete re-construction.

The following is the report made by the Engineer of the progress of the work up to the end of 1914:—

The work carried out in connection with Sewer Reconstruction during the past year is as follows:—

In High Street the work carried out in connection with the above has included the relaying of the sewer and storm water sewer from a point 52 yards north of High Street Station to the front entrance to the George Inn, both sewer and storm water sewer being found in a defective condition between these points.

New manholes have been placed at the following points:—Opposite Mrs. Sedgwick's house and opposite Mr. Christmas's premises on the storm water sewer only; two near High Street Station, near Albert Street and opposite King Street on the sewer only, and opposite Woodman's Yard, Crown Passage, Queen's Road, The National Confectionery Co.'s premises, and Loates Lane, combined manholes on both sewer and storm water sewer.

The connection from Church Street has also been altered and re-connected to low level sewer.

For Queen's Avenue from its junction with Princes Avenue to its junction with King's Avenue, the storm water sewer has been entirely relaid and strengthened and also the sewer where found defective.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A very few pail closets exist in the district, and these are only where the level is too low to permit of water closets, viz., one at Little Otterspool and two at the Wheatsheaf Cottages.

## SCAVENGING.

Ninety-three new dustbins were provided during the year, and with the exception of places where the existing bins require renewal, nearly every house may now be said to be properly supplied.

The renewal of used up bins is receiving attention, the cases where this is necessary being reported to the Health Department by the Scavengers.

The presence of troops in the town has rendered additional arrangements necessary, and after their arrival the house refuse was collected from the open billets daily.

This was done by covered cart, which picked up the contents of the latrines that it was found necessary to supply for some of the billets.

The work done by the Destructor during 1913 is given as follows:—

				Tons	cwts.
Average amount of Refuse destroyed					
per week from Town	...	...	170	0	
Private Refuse per week	...	...	5	0	
Total number of loads from old heap					
during the year...	...	...	...	2,983	
Dogs destroyed	...	...	...	120	
Cats	„	...	...	6	
Carcases of Meat Destroyed	...	...	...	44	
Diseased Organs	„	...	Numerous		



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The actual number of premises visited during the year will be seen in the Report of the Sanitary Inspectors at the end, but these figures do not include a considerable number of visits by the Medical Officer of Health for his personal information and as the result of information received from the Inspectors.

It will be seen that 793 visits have been made in connection with the provision of Dustbins; 1,022 visits to ascertain the amount of overcrowding, and 520 for enquiries with regard to Infectious Disease. Under Article 15 of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 205 visits of Primary inspection were paid and 1,420 visits during process of work.

The summary of the Inspector's work in the District gives the particulars of all visits, defects or nuisances discovered with action taken and results.

In addition I have made various inspections with regard to the sanitary condition of the neighbourhood, especially with regard to Housing, Milk Supply, Slaughterhouses, Factories, Workshops, Offensive Trades, etc., and where it has been found necessary I have paid other visits in company with the Inspectors to support them in obtaining the necessary improvements.

The number of Common Lodging Houses registered is four, with accommodation for 52 men. No provision of this kind is made for women.

These houses are amongst some of the oldest in Watford and consequently do not come up to modern standards. Still, they are kept in a cleanly condition, and in as good a state of repair as their age will admit of.

During the early part of the year I had an interview with a gentleman, who proposed building a Common Lodging House as a private undertaking, and as he had carried through such a scheme at several other places successfully, I considered that the Lodging House difficulty had found a solution.

Nothing more, however, has come of it, and I suppose the explanation here, as elsewhere, is to be found in the present unsettled condition of things generally.

There are no cellar dwellings in the District and the horse slaughterer's premises have been transferred to a site on the extreme edge of the sewage farm, away from any dwelling-houses.

New Byelaws for Offensive Trades have been adopted, and include Fish Frying and Manure Store Dealings.

### SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the different school buildings are mostly satisfactory, and such improvements as I have considered necessary I have reported to the County Education Authority.

The most important alteration I have recommended is the removal of the urinals and closets for the Oxhey Infants further from the

building, as in its present position it is, in my opinion, injurious to the health of the children. During 1914 very few cases of Measles occurred and no other outbreak of infectious disease that necessitated the closing of any of the schools.

At my Medical Inspections of the schools I found a considerable number of children with Chronic Rhinitis, and in some of these cases I found at the second inspection that this condition had existed during all the interval between the first and second inspection.

I took swabs from all the cases that presented a chronic character, and of the specimens examined I found Diphtheria bacilli in 50 per cent. Although I was unable to confirm the pathogenic nature of these organisms, I have no doubt that a considerable number were capable of successfully infecting a susceptible subject with Diphtheria. I believe that if these cases of infective nasal discharge are found and eliminated by appropriate treatment, the incidence of Diphtheria among school children will be very much reduced. At the least we shall eliminate one undoubted method of spreading the disease.

During 1914 2,407 children have been medically inspected by the School Medical Inspectors, and notices have been sent to parents recording the existence of over 900 defects, and asking them to have these remedied.

The treatment of defects found on inspection has made some progress during 1914 by the starting of the Voluntary Dental Treatment Centre at the rooms lent for that purpose at the Public Health Offices of the Urban District Council.



The following table will give some idea of the work done at this Centre, and if the Committee could obtain some help from the County Education Authority it might be possible to still further extend the work.

Undoubtedly the importance of a healthy and clean mouth cannot be over-estimated, and yet a very large proportion of the industrial population pay little or no attention to the subject, even in those cases where its importance is recognised, it becomes a matter of some difficulty for the parents to procure adequate dental treatment on account of the considerable expense that it entails. The same applies in a lesser degree to the treatment of other defects, etc., all of which should, in my opinion, receive some attention from the County School Authority.

TABLE OF WORK DONE IN WATFORD DENTAL TREATMENT CENTRE DURING THE LAST NINE MONTHS OF 1914.

Number of attendances by the dentist ...	38
Number of new cases seen ... ..	411
Attendances by children ... ..	590
Extractions of temporary teeth ... ..	562
Extractions of permanent teeth (without nitrous oxide gas) ... ..	4
Number of fillings ... ..	469
Number of extractions with nitrous oxide gas ... ..	350
Other operations ... ..	30
The schools inspected are as follows:—	
Parkgate Boys, Callow Land Infants, Callow Land Girls, Alexandra Infants, Watford Field Girls, Church of England School, and the Chater Schools.	
Number of children examined ... ..	773

## FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*

During 1914 the usual samples of milk were taken and examined Bacteriologically for evidence of Tubercular contamination.

Seventeen samples were taken and the results were fairly satisfactory, only two of these being found to contain Tubercle Baccilli.

In both instances the attention of the Dairyman was called to the condition, his cows were examined by a Veterinary Surgeon, and the diseased cow discovered and eliminated.

The number of Cowsheds in Watford again stands at five, as I reported last year, and as I then pointed out much the larger part of the milk consumed in Watford is introduced from outside the Urban area.

The condition of the cowsheds is on the whole satisfactory, and I am glad to be able to report that the cowshed which I have for long regarded as very unsatisfactory, but which I almost despaired of improving, has during 1914 been kept much cleaner and freer from manurial filth.

During 1914 I made a special effort to get the conditions of milk storage improved, and the result has been very encouraging.

In four instances proper storage places have been erected, and in two cases the existing ones were improved.

## ICE CREAMS.

Eighteen samples of Ice Cream were taken and examined.

Of these the first six were found quite wholesome. Amongst the second half-dozen one was found to have been made with some mouldy material, and another showed excessive contamination of the milk by manurial matter.

The third lot of six samples all were found satisfactory.

Representations were made to the manufacturers of the unsatisfactory creams, and the necessary improvements took place.

(b) *Other Food.*

The condition of the slaughter-houses during 1914 was much the same as previously stated; the newer ones being quite up to date and the older ones being kept in a sanitary condition.

The small slaughter-house that has been kept so badly, and which I have once or twice brought to the notice of the Public Health Committee, has now been done away with. The property changed hands and fortunately came into the possession of a member of the Council. Knowing the circumstances of the case he has made certain alterations in the property, and has let it for other purposes.

## HOUSING.

In my report for the year 1913 I noted that the Council's 22 municipal cottages were near completion. These were occupied in May and June, 1914.



I also recommended the erection of 78 more cottages, and the Council, deciding to act on my recommendation, had the necessary plans prepared and applied for the sanction of the Local Government Board.

I append a report drawn up for the enquiry which was held early in December.

The question of treating Ballard's Buildings and the surrounding property as an unhealthy area was considered, and it was felt by the Council that this matter should be postponed, as it was impossible to embark on anything like an adequate scheme during the continuance of the war.

#### REPORT ON HOUSING SCHEME.

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Watford,

December 9th, 1914.

The reasons for my recommending the provision of houses for the Working Classes by the Council may be summarised under the following heads:—

1. Necessity due to closing of old property during the last eight years or so.
2. Failure of private enterprise to supply new houses of a rental of 6/6 or under.
3. The fact of considerable overcrowding taking place, due to two families living in one house.

1. Under this head I have to report that during the last eight years 113 houses have been permanently closed, and others which have from time to time been kept going on a rather precarious basis, will before long probably have to be closed.

2. The following extracts from my reports will prove the truth of this heading.

1909. Out of 285 new houses built, not more than a dozen were let at a lower rental than 6/6.

1910. Out of 250 new houses hardly any were of a rental less than 6/6.

1912. Out of 203 houses either completed or for which plans were sent in during the year, only four were of a rental of 6/3 or under.

1913. There were none of this class out of 126 new houses.

As a confirmation I may say that particulars of empty houses in each Ward were taken at the beginning of 1914, and only eight houses of a rental of 6/6 and under were found empty.

3. In 1913 enquiries were made at over 2,000 houses among the working classes, and 54 cases were found where two families occupied the same house.

All these were overcrowded, because both families in such house could not afford to rent a house at the price they could obtain one at.

These families alone would probably be enough to occupy the proposed houses.

As an additional proof of the need for such houses, I may say that about 100 applications were made for the 22 houses already built in Willow Lane.

The work done during 1914 under the Housing Acts has been less than during previous years, owing to the following facts.

The Council during the early half of the year were inclined to avoid closing fresh property until they were well started with the provision of new cottages for the displaced residents, and during the latter half there has been a disinclination on their part to take any action that could be construed as undue pressure, either on tenant or landlord, at the present time of unprecedented strain.

In fact, in one case where the tenants had had an ejectment order issued against them before the declaration of war, and where they stated that it was impossible to get other accommodation, the order was allowed to lapse. One of the tenants was the wife of a man at the front, and the Council were reluctant to show anything like severity in this case.

One hundred and twenty houses, however, were reported to the Council as coming under Clause 15, Town Planning Act, and 88 of these have been made habitable without issuing a closing order. The remainder are still to be visited by the Public Health Visiting Committee.

Situation of Houses Inspected.	Houses Inspected under and for Section 17, Act 1909.	Houses found dangerous or injurious to Health.	Representations made to Council for Closing Orders.	Closing Orders made.	Defects remedied without Closing Orders.	Defects remedied after Closing Order.	General Character of Defects found to exist.	Closed.	Demolished.
Upper Paddock Terrace ...	Reported in 1913.	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	Three houses closed in 1913 were demolished in 1914.
Cross Street ...	23	—	—	—	23	—	Dampness and minor repairs.	—	
Sotheron Road ...	7	—	—	—	7	—	do.	—	
Duke Street ...	5	—	—	—	5	—	do.	—	
Earl Street ...	10	—	—	—	10	—	do.	—	
Banbury Street ...	13	—	—	—	13	—	do.	—	
Hagden Lane...	14	—	—	—	14	—	do.	—	
Watford Fields ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Fox Alley ...	1	Under consideration of Council.	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Swan Alley ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
New Road ...	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Grove Place ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Prince Street...	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	
Sutton Road ...	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	
Church Road...	10	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	
Weymouth Street ...	4	4	4	4	—	—	Dampness and general dilapidations.	4	
Cassio Road ...	1	1	1	1	—	—	do.	1	
	128	5	5	5	88	10	—	5	4
Houses inspected—									
Infectious Disease Com									
plaints, &c....	520	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Re Visits work in progress ...	873	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Special Visits re enquiries overcrowding ...	1022	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



TABLE SHOWING NEW HOUSES OCCUPIED FOR THE YEAR 1914.

	WARDS.				
	King's.	Queen's.	St Andrew's.	Callow Land.	Oxhey. Total.
Plans passed, 1914	...	...	...	...	...
Houses not completed, 1914	...	...	...	...	...
Houses built, 1914	...	...	...	...	...
Houses built but not occupied	...	...	...	...	...
Houses built and occupied	...	...	...	...	...
Houses built and occupied from 1913 Plans	...	...	...	...	...
Total New Houses occupied, 1914	...	...	...	...	...

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Details of work under this Act appear in the special tables issued by the Home Office.

## C. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

### I. STAFF.

The Staff of the Public Health Department of Watford consists of the following:—

The Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Meat and Milk Inspector.

Health Visitor (a second Health Visitor appointed April, 1915).

Two men engaged in drain testing and disinfection, cleansing of the Courts and Alleys, and other similar duties.

The School Nurse supplied under the auspices of the County Education Authority attends the offices three times a week to inspect children excluded from school for verminous conditions with a view to their returning to school when clean. She also sees children suffering from Ringworm and minor ailments, and where necessary refers them to me. One afternoon a week she also attends the Dental Treatment Centre.

### 2. HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The Hospital for infectious disease is a Joint one for the District, embraced by the boundaries of the Union, and as it is situated in the Watford Urban District and the Medical



Superintendent and the Medical Officer of Health for Watford are identical, a full report of the Hospital work for the year is given at the end of this Report, containing all information under this head relating to the Watford Urban District.

### 3. ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS AND GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The only Local Act for the District is the Watford Act of 1909.

The adoptive Acts that are in force in the Urban District are the following:—

Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1907.

Good Rule and Government (adopted by County Council for the County).

### 4. CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK DURING THE YEAR.

At the Public Health Laboratory 155 swabs were examined for the presence of Diphtheria Bacilli during 1914.

A considerable number of specimens of sputum were also investigated, and hairs from suspicious cases of ringworm were subject to examination for the spore of this disease.

The Bacteriological examination of milk samples has been done by the Lister Institute, and Drs. Thresh and Beale have been responsible for the Chemical and Bacteriological examination of the Water Supply.

The following figures give the work under this head:—

17	Samples of Milk.
18	„ Ice Cream.
11	„ Water.
4	„ Watercress.

#### 5. SANITARY SUPERVISION OF TROOPS BILLETED IN WATFORD.

Since the arrival of troops in Watford in October the Health Department have been busy in assisting the Military Authorities to ensure the conditions under which the men live being as satisfactory for their health as possible.

I communicated with each battalion on its arrival, and the list of billets was carefully gone over at this office, so as to eliminate any billet where infectious disease rendered it unsuitable.

A considerable percentage of the men belonging to the 6th and 7th City of London and coming from Crowboro were verminous, and arrangements were as quickly as possible made to erect baths at the Works of the Urban Council, where there was a supply of steam to heat sufficient water quickly for bathing purposes.

The Sanitary Officer of the Division had many interviews with myself and the Sanitary Inspector, and the result of this joint action has been successful in maintaining a high standard of health amongst the men billeted in Watford.

The billeting in private houses of one or two men has worked quite satisfactorily, but I have not been satisfied myself with the placing of a considerable number of men in empty houses.

The whole domestic conveniences of such houses have been planned for the necessities of no greater number of individuals than are generally found constituting one good-sized family, including two or three servants.

If instead 20, 30 or 40 men are housed in this dwelling, all the arrangements are at once inadequate, and this can only lead to badly-cooked food, probably deficiency of fresh air, insufficient sanitary conveniences, and dirt everywhere.

In the wet weather, we had at the close of the year, these houses got in a filthy condition, and, under the circumstances, it really appeared quite impossible to prevent it.

When to this is added a difficulty in drying the wet clothes of the men, I feel convinced that there is a much better chance of keeping the men fit in private billets than in empty houses.

Iron buckets were supplied wherever the w.c. accommodation was insufficient, and extra dustbins where it was necessary, and these have been regularly emptied every day.

To keep the sanitary arrangements properly working has required constant supervision, and the Sanitary Inspector has made frequent visits of inspection for this purpose—the number amounting to 315.

An interchange of notification of infectious cases has taken place between the Military and Civil Sanitary Authorities, and this kept the number of infectious cases among the troops at a minimum.



The Watford Isolation Hospital arrange to admit any of these cases, but up to the end of the year only two patients were admitted suffering from erysipelas out of the Watford Urban District, although the Hospital had a larger number of cases from the troops billeted in the surrounding districts, and to oblige the Sanitary Officer of the Division, took in a case of enteric from Hatfield, for which he could find no other accommodation.

#### D. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As a whole the notifications of Infectious Disease showed a great reduction in number during 1914, when compared with 1913. In the latter year 1,255 cases were reported, and in 1914 only 404 notifications were received. This was mainly owing to the dying out of the measles epidemic in 1913, for while during that year 945 cases were reported to the Health Department, only 24 were brought under our notice during 1914.

Scarlet Fever cases in that year were nearly double the number occurring in the previous twelve months, while Diphtheria shows an increase of 31 cases. No great difference is seen in the Erysipelas notifications, but eleven cases of Puerperal Fever occurred, against none in 1913.

Tuberculosis notifications show a reduction from 163 to 132, and for the first time notifications of Ophthalmia Neonatorum appear, there being 6 during 1914.

After experiencing the benefit of the down wave of Scarlet Fever prevalence, there appears since 1912 to be a gradual tendency for the wave to move up, and this accounts for the number of cases of this disease reaching 116 in the year 1914. Nearly half the number of cases occurred in the last quarter of the year, and of these again nearly half were in King's Ward. The first quarter gave 11 cases, the second 24, the third 19, and the last 61 cases. The 116 were distributed in the Wards as follows:—King's 51, Queen's 22, Callow Land 23, St. Andrew's 15, and Oxhey 5.

As must necessarily be the case whenever Scarlet Fever is prevalent, school influence had an important share in spreading the disease.

When we consider that this is a complaint that is most easily conveyed by intimate contact of one individual with another, that undoubtedly the germs may exist in a latent condition in the body of the individual long after convalescence from the disease, and probably without their necessarily having suffered from it at all, and, finally, that the most susceptible of infections are children and young people, the congregating of large numbers of children together in confined spaces, however well ventilated, must result in the passing on of germs the one to the other.

Still the methods of notification and isolation were successful in preventing anything like a severe epidemic that might have necessitated the closing of the schools.

The Diphtheria cases notified were again in excess of the number during the previous year, but a very large proportion were either very mild cases, clinically speaking, while others really

showed no feature of the disease, but only the presence of the germ in the throat passages, and might be looked upon rather as possible carriers than persons actually suffering from the complaint.

The seasonal prevalence of Diphtheria was as follows:—The First Quarter, 30 cases; Second Quarter, 17 cases; Third Quarter, 26 cases; Fourth Quarter, 16 cases.

Of these, 35 notifications came from King's Ward, 20 from Queen's, 31 from Callow Land, 2 from St. Andrew's, and 1 from Oxhey.

Just as with Scarlet Fever, so with Diphtheria, school influence must have something to do with the spread of the disease, and this was apparently quite clear, both at Beechen Grove and Chater Girls' School, at one period during 1914.

I have no hesitation in saying that an enormous influence for good would result in the way of reducing the number of infectious cases amongst children, were the Education Authority to provide open-air schools for at least the summer months.

At no time of life is fresh air so necessary as during the growing period, and the conditions favouring the passage of disease germs from one to the other are certainly reduced by one-half by teaching children in the open air instead of closed buildings.

One case of Enteric Fever was reported to have occurred in 1914 in the Watford area, but whatever the nature of the disease was enquiries pointed to its having originated outside our boundaries.



Puerperal Fever came into prominence, eleven notifications being received during the year.

It was very difficult to account for so many cases of this complaint, and I fail to find any connection the one with the other, except in the first four cases, which happened quite close together, and were attended by the same mid-wife. The one gratifying point about these cases was that only in one of them did the disease prove fatal.

Measles occurred to a very limited extent during the year under discussion, only 24 cases being reported.

This is only what was to be expected, as the disease had worked itself out during the previous year, and such an epidemic as occurred then is generally followed by one or two years of comparative freedom from its appearance.

## E. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1914 the notifications of all forms of this disease showed a decrease of 31 compared with 1913.

The number 132 was made up of 116 where the disease had developed in the lungs, and 16 cases where some other portion of the body was the principal seat of its development.

The administrative measures to cope with the spread of this disease are undertaken jointly by the County and Urban Authority, and during the past year this arrangement has been found to work most satisfactorily.

The Assistant County Tuberculosis Officer and myself are able to keep in touch and supply each other with any information either of us may need, and in this way unnecessary overlapping is avoided.

The provision of shelters by the County and Urban Authorities is found to meet all the requirements of patients. It is to be regretted that in a considerable number of cases where a shelter would undoubtedly be of benefit there is not proper accommodation for it on the premises of the patient.

I have had a very good response from the Medical Men with regard to my enquiries concerning contacts, in some instances they have examined them themselves, and in others expressed themselves as willing for Dr. Sparrow or myself to do so. The chief difficulty in this direction is still the disinclination on the part of the contacts to be examined, as they do not appear to realise that the disease may have gained a footing without in the early stages making them feel really ill, and that if discovered at this initial period of development, its progress may be stopped, with a reasonable hope of a complete cure resulting, where as if they wait till the symptoms are sufficiently pronounced to cause them anxiety or alarm, the chances of successfully combating the inroad of the disease are so much the more remote.

Specimens of sputum sent by Medical Men have been examined in the Laboratory for Tubercle Bacilli, but these have not been very numerous, and it would, I think, be satisfactory if I had a specimen sent from every case, so that the diagnosis might be confirmed or otherwise by a sputum examination.

Of the 132 cases notified during the year, 67 cases were treated at home, 21 went to a hospital or sanatorium, 17 were admitted to the Phthisis Block at the Union Infirmary, and 27 patients died.

One hundred and seventy-six rooms were disinfected for the purpose of stopping the spread of this disease.

## F. INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

Little can be done in this direction, the only basis for forming any opinion on disease, other than notifiable infectious cases, being the Register of Deaths.

On comparing the figures here for the last two years we find Respiratory disease accounted for 56 deaths in 1914, against 54 in 1913. Heart disease proved fatal in 43 cases, compared with 47 deaths in 1913. There were 58 fatal cases of cancer, comparing with 40 in the previous year, while there were only 6 deaths from Bright's Disease, against 10 in 1913.

Fatal accidents were only 7 in 1914, and suicides were only 4, instead of 14 and 5 during 1913.

## G. MEANS OF PREVENTING MORTALITY OF CHILDBIRTH AND IN INFANCY.

This work has gone on as before, but during the latter part of 1914 I reported to the Public Health Committee that I thought we might with advantage extend our field of labours to include



expectant mothers, and children from their first year of life up to their attending school.

I suggested that this should be a joint effort on the part of the Council's Officials and a Voluntary Committee of Ladies interested in the work, and I was able to enlist the services of such a Committee, which, under the presidency of Lady Essex, has already taken the matter in hand. At the time of writing, I am glad to say, the extended programme has been arranged and the work has begun.

## H. VITAL STATISTICS.

The year 1914 saw a further increase in the population of Watford, and it was expected that a further increase still would accrue as the result of an extension of the boundaries of the district.

Although a County Council enquiry was held in 1914 to consider the proposed extension, no definite sanction to such enlargement of our borders has yet been received from the Local Government Board.

I have estimated the population for 1914 at 45,000, and a fairly correct division of the increased number of the inhabitants amongst the different Wards is as follows:—

King's Ward	...	...	873
Queen's Ward	...	...	67
St. Andrew's Ward	...	...	18
Callow Land Ward	...	...	336
Oxhey Ward	...	...	36
<hr/>			
Total	...	...	1,330
<hr/>			



If we add these figures to the previous years' estimates, the Ward population will be as follows:—

King's Ward ...	...	16,650
Queen's Ward ...	...	8,549
St. Andrew's Ward ...	...	4,339
Callow Land Ward ...	...	10,892
Oxhey Ward ...	...	4,570
Total ...		<hr/> 45,000 <hr/>

Very little change has taken place in the number of unoccupied houses during 1914, the number remaining near the figure it stood at in 1913. The total number of new houses completed and occupied during the year was 208, which is in excess of the past few years.

The table showing this with other particulars is given under the heading of "Housing."

### BIRTHS.

The number of births during 1914 was 869; in the previous year there were 885, and the year before that 897.

It will be seen therefore that although the Watford population increases each year, the number of births steadily although slightly decrease.

The birth rate for the first time in my experience has sunk below 20, being 19.3 per 1,000 of the population. This compares with 20.2 in 1913 and 21 in 1912, and with 23.6, the birth-rate for 1914 for all England and Wales.

## DEATHS.

The deaths registered during 1914 were 458, compared with 435 during 1913.

The deaths in Public Institutions of persons outside our area were 40, and the number of people belonging to Watford who died away was 32.

These figures result in the reduction of the net deaths to 450, against 434 in the previous year, and the net death-rate is 10.0, compared with 9.9 in 1913. This is practically the same as last year, and is very satisfactory, that of all England and Wales amounting to 13.6, and that of the 145 small towns being 12.9.

The deaths of infants under one year of age were 63. This is a reduction on the previous year, when 70 occurred, and is only beaten by the year 1912, when the deaths amounted to only 55.

The death-rate per 1,000 births is 72.5, against one of 79 in 1913.

Comparing this rate with England and Wales, we find the infantile death-rate for the whole country to be as high as 105, and for the 145 smaller towns it is 104.

Amongst the 63 deaths there were 8 from Bronchitis and Pnuemonia, 2 from Whooping Cough, 2 from Tuberculosis, and Enteritis and Diarrhœa were responsible for 14 deaths. Twenty-seven deaths took place during the first month of life and twelve more during the first three months. During 1914 the deaths from epidemic Diarrhœa rose from 6 in the previous twelve months to 17, Whooping Cough was fatal in 4 instances, the Scarlet Fever deaths

amounted to 1, and Diphtheria 4, two of the fatal Diphtheria cases died at home, the remaining two in hospital.

The total number of deaths from the usually recorded Zymotic disease was 27, comparing with 24 in 1913.

This is shown in the following table:—

Small Pox	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	4
Fevers. Typhus	...	...	...	0
Enteric	...	...	...	1
Others	...	...	...	0
Epidemic Diarrhœa	...	...	...	17
				—
				27
				—

The Zymotic death-rate is little more than in the previous year and works out at 0.6 per thousand instead of 0.54.

## I. ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

A larger number of patients were admitted to the Hospital in 1914, the number amounting to 281, compared with 194 in 1913.

The increase was shown in both Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, and in addition two Erysipelas and one case of Enteric Fever were admitted. There were eight cases of notified infectious disease amongst men from the troops

billeted in Watford and the neighbourhood, and the Enteric case, which came from Hatfield, I took in to oblige the Military Authorities, as they could find no other accommodation for him. There were others admitted for observation that developed no definite infectious disease.

On January 1st, 1914, there were 38 cases in Hospital, consisting of 32 Scarlet Fever and 6 Diphtheria patients.

On January 1st, 1915, this number had risen to 60, and was made up of 44 Scarlet Fever, 13 Diphtheria, 2 Erysipelas, and 1 Enteric.

The following are the figures showing the number of cases in the Hospital during 1914:—

In Hospital, January 1st, 1914      ...      38

Admitted to Hospital during 1914:—

From Watford Urban District	...	160
„ Watford Rural District	...	42
„ Rickmansworth Urban Dis-		
trict	...      ...      ...	55
„ Bushey Urban District	...	13
„ Chorleywood Urban District		11
		—
Total	...	319
		—

The following are the results at the end of 1914:—

Discharged during 1914	...      ...	252
Died in Hospital	...      ...      ...	7
Still in Hospital on January 1st, 1915		60
		—
Total	...	319
		—



All the Districts show an increase in the number of Diphtheria cases; Watford and Bushey Urban both had more cases of Scarlet Fever, while Watford Rural's number was only one in excess of 1913. Rickmansworth, which contributed 55 cases in 1913, only sent 43 into the Hospital during 1914.

The type of Diphtheria was rather more severe than in the previous year, as shown by the fact that we had six deaths from this disease during the twelve months under consideration.

In eleven cases the disease was situated in the respiratory passages. Seven of these made recoveries by the Anti-toxin treatment alone, the other four had to have tracheotomy performed. Two of these died and two recovered. The other four deaths were due to heart failure, after the condition of the throats had quite cleared up.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were not of a bad type, there being only one death amongst those sent in as suffering from this disease. This fatal case, in my opinion, was one of septic infection in the abdomen, and the rash which led to the diagnosis of Scarlet Fever was, I believe, a septic one.

Various cases were received from among the troops in Watford and the vicinity. A certain number were observation cases of sore throat, most of which did not turn out to be of a diphtheritic character; three cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted, two of Erysipelas, and one of Enteric Fever.

The complications were not serious, consisting of the usual Nephritis and gland troubles, with a few instances of purulent discharge from the ear and Rhinitis.

This year I have omitted the usual tables, as the importance of this is not great, considering that all the necessary information is given in the letterpress.

In the appendix will be found the various tables with reports from the other officials of the Public Health Department.

I must take this opportunity of thanking those associated with me in the Public Health Work for their whole-hearted support and the energy with which they have performed their duties.

Finally, I beg to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the sympathetic way they have received my reports and suggestions, and the support they have given me in my work.

I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

ARTHUR KING.

## REPORT OF THE HEALTH VISITOR.

## NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

Under this Act the work continues much about the same, with the exception of the Wednesday afternoon for weighing babies, which was started when the new offices were completed. This afternoon has been much appreciated by a number of the mothers, who regularly bring their babies to be weighed and ask advice as to the welfare of the child. With the assistance of the newly-constructed Mothers' and Infant Welfare Committee, which consists of voluntary workers interested in the subject, and the help of another Health Visitor, I look forward to a substantial extension of this work, so that it may be of great benefit to mothers both before and after their confinements.

Since starting the afternoon for weighing babies, 106 individual mothers attended up to December, with a total of 415 attendances.

The births are usually visited after about ten days, and revisited as often as necessary.

The number of primary visits paid was 642 ; revisits, 1,699.

Below is a table giving the number of births notified, etc. :—

Number of births notified	...	778
(a) Notified by Doctors	... 349	
(b) Notified by Midwives	... 429	
(c) From Registrar's returns	132	
Still births notified	... ..	24
Illegitimate births	... ..	32

The Milk Fund in connection with our Centre has been of great help during the year. The War Relief Committee availed themselves of it to supply milk to the children of soldiers up for active service, where, owing to the great delay in receiving the separation pay, the family needed assistance. In some cases it was only temporarily given, others receiving it for some time. Without the milk the babies could not possibly have got on as they did.

This Committee is now absorbed into the larger one called the Mothers' and Infant Welfare Committee.

#### NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 132 cases of Tuberculosis were notified. Each case was visited (unless requested by the Medical Man notifying), advice given, and a leaflet left stating the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Where needed the house was disinfected, and, if necessary, defects reported to the Medical Officer of Health. There is still great difficulty in making some realise that fresh air and open windows are the most important things in combating the progress of the disease.

The number of houses disinfected after the death of a patient, or the removal to another house, will be given by the Sanitary Inspector.

Below is a summary of my work.

Number of primary visits to births	...	640
„ „ revisits paid	... ..	1,699
„ „ visits to Tuberculosis cases	...	136



Number of revisits paid	...	...	...	318
„ „ visits paid to Measles	...			38
Miscellaneous visits, including 55 visits paid in connection with the War Relief Fund	...	...	...	254
Assisting at the Tuberculosis Dispensary	...	...	32 afternoons	
Inspection of the Council Cottages, Willow Lane	...	...	...	4

(Signed) G. M. HAMMOND.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS. WATFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN DISTRICT.		TRANSFER-ABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-Residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1909	38663	...	935	24.1	408	10.5	23	15	68	72.7	400	10.3
1910	39805	...	887	22.3	386	9.5	23	12	59	66.5	375	9.4
1911	41200	900	907	22.0	414	10.0	38	42	85	93.7	418	10.1
1912	42570	894	897	21.0	410	9.6	41	20	55	61.3	389	9.1
1913	43670	885	885	20.2	435	9.9	32	31	70	79.0	434	9.9
1914	45000	874	869	19.3	458	10.1	40	32	63	72.5	450	10.0

AT CENSUS, 1911.

Total population at all ages	...	...	40,939
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	9,148
Average number of persons per house...			4.38
Area of District in acres (land and inland water)	...	...	2,061

TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1914.  
WATFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.					TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.	
	At Ages.							King's Ward.	Queen's Ward.	St. Andrew's Ward.	Callow Land Ward.	Oxhey Ward.		
	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.							
	At all Ages.	12	51	168	55	84	30	6	167	77	24	125	13	160
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera (C) Plague (P)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c.:—Watford Joint Isolation Hospital, Watford District Hospital, Watford Union Infirmary.

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING  
THE YEAR 1914. WATFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.									DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All causes { Certified ..	447	62	11	18	14	14	70	99	159	125
{ Uncertified ..	3	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Enteric Fever.. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Small Pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Whooping Cough .. ..	4	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup .. ..	4	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	6
Influenza .. ..	7	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	4	1
Erysipelas .. ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Phthisis (Pulm'ry Tubercul's)	46	..	..	1	1	8	22	12	2	10
Tuberculous Meningitis .. ..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	8	1	2	..	..	1	2	2	..	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	58	..	..	..	..	..	11	18	29	16
Rheumatic Fever .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Meningitis .. ..	7	1	3	1	1	..	..	1	..	3
Organic Heart Disease .. ..	43	..	..	1	1	1	5	16	19	10
Bronchitis .. ..	25	3	1	1	..	..	..	5	15	4
Pneumonia (all forms) .. ..	27	5	..	5	1	..	5	6	5	5
Other Diseases of Respira- tory Organs .. ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..
Diarrhœa and Enteritis .. ..	18	14	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	5
Appendicitis and Typhlitis.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	1
Alcoholism .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	..
Puerperal Fever .. ..	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, including Pre- mature Birth .. ..	26	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide .. ..	7	..	..	1	1	1	2	2	..	4
Suicide .. ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	3
Other Defined Diseases .. ..	133	8	2	2	4	1	12	26	78	48
Diseases ill-defined or un- known .. ..	8	1	1	1	1	..	2	1	1	..
Totals .. ..	450	63	11	18	14	14	71	99	160	125



TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1914.  
WATFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	Certified	...	15	5	2	4	27	12	10	5	9	62
	Uncertified	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
{	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Whooping-Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
	Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
{	Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
{	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	3
{	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	...	5
	Diarrhoea	...	...	1	...	1	6	3	...	4	...	14
{	Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
{	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
	Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Injury at Birth	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
{	Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Congenital Malformations	...	3	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	4
{	Premature Birth	...	11	3	1	...	15	...	...	...	...	15
	Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	1	2	...	2	5	2	...	...	...	7
{	Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
	Totals	...	16	5	2	4	27	12	10	5	9	63

Births in the Year :—Legitimate, 835 ; Illegitimate, 34.

Deaths in the Year :—Legitimate Infants, 57 ; Illegitimate Infants, 6.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

## 1.—INSPECTION.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ..	72	4	Nil.
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ..	186	72	"
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) ..	23		"
Total .. ..	281	76	"

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness .. .. .	67	67	Nil.	Nil.
Want of Ventilation .. .. .	1	1	"	"
Overcrowding .. .. .	1	1	"	"
Want of Drainage of Floors .. .. .	..	..	"	"
Other Nuisances .. .. .	12	12	"	"
Sanitary accommodations { insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	..	..	"	"
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of Underground Bakehouse (S. 101) .. .. .	Nil.	Nil.	"	"
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100) .. .. .	"	"	"	"
Failure as regard Lists of Outworkers (S. 107) .. .. .	"	"	"	"
Giving out Work to be done in { unwholesome (S. 108) Premises which are { infected (S. 110) .. .. .	"	"	"	"
Allowing Wearing Apparel to be made in Premises Infected by Scarlet Fever or Smallpox (S. 109) .. .. .	"	"	"	"
Other Offences .. .. .	"	"	"	"
Total .. .. .	85	85	Nil.	Nil.

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.		Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act, (S. 133)	..	Nil.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors (Notified by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but { Reports (of action taken) sent to not under the Factory Act (S.5) H.M. Inspectors	..	2
Other .. .. .	..	..
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) .. .. .	..	Nil.
Certificates granted during the year .. .. .	..	..
In use at the end of the year .. .. .	..	9
Homework :—		
Lists of Outworkers (S. 107) :—		
Lists received .. .. .	..	8
Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :—		
Notices prohibiting Homework in Unwholesome Premises (S. 108)	..	..
Cases of Infectious Disease Notified in Homeworkers' Premises	..	..
Orders prohibiting Homework in Infected Premises (S. 110)	..	..
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of the year.		
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bake-houses, may be enumerated here.	Factories	64
	Bakehouses	41
	Dressmakers and Milliners	46
	Tailors .. .. .	..
	Other Workshops	64
Total number of Workshops on Register		215



TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS AND DISEASE  
NOTIFIED FROM 1904 TO 1914.

	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlatina ...	220	117	197	254	92	121	120	103	80	67	116
Diphtheria ...	37	85	129	218	125	82	33	61	30	58	89
Enteric Fever	9	8	7	7	4	5	4	7	4	—	2
Puerperal ...	1	2	5	—	—	1	—	3	4	—	11
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	111	163	132



REPORT OF WORK CARRIED OUT  
BY SANITARY INSPECTORS  
DURING THE YEAR, 1914.

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Visits to Common Lodging Houses	...	...	89
„ Courts and Alleys	...	...	590
„ Infected Houses	...	...	361
„ Work in Progress	...	...	547
Houses Inspected	...	...	520
Houses Re-Inspected	...	...	229
Houses Inspected (Housing and Town Planning Act)	...	...	205
Houses Re-Inspected (Ditto)	...	...	97
Houses Visited, Enquiries re Over- crowding	...	...	1,022
Workshops Inspected	}	....	....
Bakehouses „			
Factories „			
Inhabited Vans Inspected	...	...	6
Urinals	...	...	23
Manure Pits	...	...	317
Visits to Schools re Infectious Disease	...	...	41
Smoke Observations	...	...	6
Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	36
Nuisances Investigated	...	...	205
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	695
House Drains Tested	...	...	194
Scavenging Superintended.			

Visits to Streets re Census of Empty Houses	...	...	...	...	372
Visits to Open Billets	...	...	...	...	315
Inspections, Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	68
Samples of Milk taken	...	...	...	...	17
Samples of Ice Cream taken	...	...	...	...	18
Samples of Water...	...	...	...	...	11
Samples of Watercress	...	...	...	...	4
Inspections of Yards re Provision of Sanitary Dust Bins	...	...	...	...	93
Re ditto ditto ditto	...	...	...	...	710
Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	...	...	484
Legal ditto ditto	...	...	...	...	95
Letters sent	...	...	...	...	703
Notices sent to Schools (re Infectious Diseases)	...	...	...	...	236
No. of Licenses granted under Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	30
Cowsheds and Dairies Inspected	...	...	...	...	65
Milk-shops Inspected	...	...	...	...	316
Slaughter-house Visits	...	...	...	...	2,363
Visits to Market	...	...	...	...	292
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	16
Visits to Food Preparing Places	...	...	...	...	277
„ Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	441
„ Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	553

## FOOD INSPECTION.

### CARCASES EXAMINED.

Beasts.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.
6,771	14,460	4,576	1,242

DISEASED AND UNSOUND MEAT, FRUIT AND  
VEGETABLES CONDEMNED AND DESTROYED.

15 Beasts & all Organs	10 Pigs' Plucks
444 „ Livers	1 „ Mesentery
151 „ Lungs	2 st. Pork.
49 „ Udders	4 Boxes Mackerel
26 „ Heads	10 „ Kippers
12 „ Other Organs	2 st. Cod Fish
2 Forequarters Beef	6 st. Coal Fish
1 Hindquarter Beef	3 st. Whiting
85 st. 4 lbs. Bruised	20 st. Mixed Fish
and Unsound Beef	1 Bag Shrimps
4 Calves (immature)	1 Barrel Apples
10 Sheep & all Organs	3 Boxes Oranges
16 Sheeps' Plucks	1 Basket Plums
12 „ Heads	60 lbs. Apples
18 st. 4 lbs. Unsound	26 doz. Bananas
Mutton	8 Boxes Tomatoes
7 Pigs and all Organs	20 Tins Preserved
35 Pigs' Heads	Beef
11 „ Livers	1 Barrel Salted
11 „ Lungs	Beef
1 „ Spleen	

TABLE SHOWING EXTENT OF TUBERCULOSIS PROCESS IN ANIMALS EXAMINED, YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31st, 1914.

Kind of Animal.	Number Examined.	Of which were Tuberculous.	Heads.	Thorax.			Abdomen.							Udders.	Entire Carcases Seized.	
				Lungs.	Heart and Pericardium.	Serous Membranes.	Livers.	Stomachs.	Spleens.	Kidneys.	Intestines.	Uteri.	Serous Membranes.			Mesentery.
Beasts	...	{ 145 Cows 16 Bullocks — 161	38	141	13	15	17	13	12	10	12	7	13	11	10 Cows 1 Bullock — 11	
Sheep	14,460		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pigs	4,576		38	30	28	3	28	3	6	5	—	2	2	5	—	5 Pigs
Calves	1,242		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	27,049	206	76	171	41	18	45	16	18	15	12	9	15	18	11	16



## NUISANCES.

			Abated	Out- standing
Defective Drains	...	...	98	8
Choked Drains	...	...	110	
Defective W.C.'s	...	...	88	8
„ Soil Pipes	...	...	17	
„ Gullies	...	...	51	
„ Flushing Fittings	...	...	77	
„ Sink Pipes	...	...	21	
„ Eaves Gutters, &c.	...	...	43	
„ Fresh Air Inlets...	...	...	160	
„ Roofs	...	...	33	
„ Inspections Chambers	...	...	7	
„ Urinal	...	...	1	
Yard Paving Repaired, &c.	...	...	63	
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	88	
Whitewashing, &c.	...	...	331	11
Filthy Houses	...	...	18	
Dampness	...	...	127	10
Dirty Closets and Yards	...	...	41	
Overcrowding	...	...	2	
Workshops Limewashed	...	...	82	
General Repairs	...	...	103	7
Cellar Paved	...	...	1	
Poultry Improperly Kept	...	...	4	
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	2	

## DISINFECTION.

Rooms after Infectious Disease	...	...	293
Rooms after Phthisis	...	...	176
Rooms for Vermin	...	...	88
Rooms after Cancer	...	...	24
School Rooms	...	...	42
Hospital Wards	...	...	12

## BEDDING, &amp;c., DISINFECTED.

Palliasses	...	35	Curtains	...	2
Mattresses	...	85	Carpets	...	5
Beds	...	92	Cloaks	...	5
Pillows	...	257	Coats	...	15
Bolsters	...	82	Boys' Suits	...	4
Blankets	...	248	Caps	...	3
Sheets	...	61	Rugs	...	4
Bed Quilts	...	55	Dresses	...	2
Counterpanes	...	22	Sundries	...	53
General Body Linen	23		Cushions	...	15

## BEDDING, &amp;c., DESTROYED.

Palliasses	...	4	Quilts	...	2
Beds	...	3	Sundries	...	17

## SHOPS ACT, 1912 AND 1913.

During the past year numerous visits have been paid to various shopkeepers to see that the provisions of the Act were being enforced. Several minor matters, consisting mostly of failing to exhibit the necessary statutory notices, and especially in those shops that are entitled to remain open on the half-holiday owing to their selling certain exempted articles. In each case a caution was given, and in two cases legal proceedings were instituted and convictions obtained.



